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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,105	02/01/2002	Bernard Beier	600.1205	6014

23280 7590 11/12/2003

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EXAMINER

PHAM, HAI CHI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/066,105

Applicant(s)

BEIER ET AL.

Examiner

Hai C Pham

Art Unit

2861

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 6 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 and 7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2, 6, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Stephenson et al. (U.S. 5,450,099).

Stephenson et al., an acknowledged prior art, discloses a method for imaging a printing form (receiver 14) using a thermal line printer having at least one first imaging module and one second imaging module (separated staggered printing head segments 30, 32, and 34, Fig. 1) for producing printing dots on the printing form, the method comprising producing in the transition region (overlapping segment 82, Fig. 4C) a plurality of at least partially not-simply connected first printing dots using the first imaging module (the not-simply connected shaded pixels formed in the overlapping region 82 by the printing head segment 30), and producing in the transition region complementary (overlapping segment 72, Fig. 4B) not-simply connected second printing dots using the second imaging module (the not-simply connected shaded pixels formed

in the overlapping region 72 by the printing head segment 34). With regard to claim 6, Stephenson et al. teaches the first and second imaging modules being movable relative to the printing form (a relative movement between the set of printing head segments 30, 32, 34 and the receiver 14 via drive motors 22 and 26).

With regard to claim 2, Stephenson et al. further teaches one simply connected first region of the printing form being assigned to the first imaging module (the non-overlapped or complete image pixel field segment 84 performed by the printing head segment 30), and a second simply connected region of the printing form being assigned to the second imaging module (the non-overlapped or complete image pixel field segment 74 performed by the printing head segment 34) (col. 10, lines 15-21).

3. Claims 1-2, 6, 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada et al. (U.S. 6,563,601 B1).

Yamada et al. discloses a method and apparatus for printing characters or images in multiple printing areas (23A and 23B, Fig. 4) of a print medium by scanning at a first imaging module (printhead 4A) and a second imaging module (printhead 4B), wherein the image data to be printed within the overlapped printing area (23C or 1103) is selectively divided among the two printheads such that partially not-simply connected first printing dots are formed by each of the first and second printheads (by using a mask as shown in Fig. 16, where the white areas of the mask pattern are for the first printhead 4A and the black areas for the second printhead 4B, printing pixels are formed as not-simply connected dots within the overlapped printing area).

With regard to claim 2, Yamada et al. further teaches one simply connected first region of the printing form being assigned to the first imaging module (the non-overlapped or complete image pixel field on the left side of the overlapped printing area 23C performed by the first printhead 4A), and a second simply connected region of the printing form being assigned to the second imaging module (the non-overlapped or complete image pixel field on the right side of the overlapped printing area 23C performed by the second printhead 4B).

With regard to claim 6, Yamada et al. teaches the first and second imaging modules being movable relative to the printing form (see Fig. 4).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 3-5, 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the primary reason for the indication of the allowability of the claimed invention is the inclusion of the limitations, in the combination as currently claimed, that the first and second imaging modules each have n light sources, the light sources producing imaging spots on the printing form having a spacing l of neighboring imaging spots, the spacing l being a multiple of a spacing p of two neighboring printing dots, and which are not found taught or fairly suggested by the prior arts made of record, considered alone or in combination.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 6, 8-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented in this office action.

Contact information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-1281. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benjamin R. Fuller can be reached on (703) 308-0079. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722, (703) 308-7724, (703) 308-7382, (703) 305-3431, (703) 305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

November 6, 2003